# DESCRIPTION OF A NEW OPHIURAN.

By H. Farquhar.

*(Communicated by the Secretary.)*

(Plate xv.)

Ophioplocus Huttoni, n.sp.

Diameter of disc 6 mm.; length of arms about two and a half times the diameter of the disc; width of arms near the disc 1·2 mm. Disc round, slightly swollen, covered above and below with rounded, irregular, imbricating scales; two or three small scales in the centre of the disc surrounded by a rosette of five larger ones, outside of these are rows of larger scales (about 0·5 mm. wide), each of these larger scales surrounded by smaller, irregular ones; one broad scale on the edge of the disc in the middle of the interbrachial space; a number of very small scales where the arms join the disc. Radial shields small (about 0·6 mm. long), oval, far apart, sunk in the scaling of the disc. Scales on the under side of the disc smaller than those above and more regular, decreasing in size from without inwards. Mouth-papillæ five on each side of the mouth-angle, crowded, the outermost and innermost pointed, the others squarish, the outermost but one largest, others decreasing in size, the innermost one smallest. Mouth-shields broad, fan-shaped. Side mouth-shields oblong, broader without than within, meeting within. Under arm-plates slightly broader than long, lateral and inner lateral sides re-enteringly curved. First under arm-plate like the mouth-shields in shape, but smaller. Side arm-plates well developed, bearing two short rather stout, bluntly pointed arm-spines. Halves of upper arm-plates near the base of the arms rounded, and separated by

a number of supplementary pieces—one large piece on the middle of the arm, surrounded by three large ones within and three or four smaller ones without. One flat, broadly ovate tentacle-scale entirely covering the tentacle-pore. Colour uniform pale yellowish.

The above is a description of an individual.

*Hab.*—Lyall Bay (one of Captain Hutton's old collecting grounds), near Wellington, New Zealand; one specimen, found at low water on rocks, among seaweed.

The occurrence of this genus in New Zealand is interesting. Our species differs in many respects from the other two known forms—*O. imbricatus*, Müller and Troschel, and *O. Esmarki*, Lyman. All are littoral. The latter species occurs on the coasts of California, and *O. imbricatus* ranges throughout the Indo-Pacific region, having been found on the northern coast of Australia, at Amboyna, Timor, Java, Philippine Islands, Japan, Samoa, Kingsmill Islands, New Caledonia, Zanzibar, Mozambique, and Mauritius.

In a former paper, "On the Echinoderm Fauna of New Zealand" (Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 1898, p. 300), I spoke of the East Indian region as lying to the north of the Australian Region. Having looked up the marine fauna of this area, I find that the proposed East Indian Region must be abandoned, and we must revert to the late Mr. Woodward's Indo-Pacific Region as defined in his "Manual of the Mollusca," 4th edit., 1880. The marine fauna of this immense region, extending from the eastern shores of Africa to the eastern Pacific, is one, at any rate as regards the Echinoderms and Mollusks, a great many of the forms being widely spread within this area. (Professor Tate, of Adelaide, the greatest authority on the Australian Molluscan fauna, appears to accept Woodward's divisions—Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust., Vol. ix., p. 80).

I have to correct two other misstatements in the above-mentioned paper. Two species of *Echinobrissus* are known from the Australian Tertiaries—*E. Australiæ*, Duncan, and *E. vincen-*

*tinus*, Tate (Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust., xiv., p. 276), not one only, as stated on page 302. Our Holothurians are not all endemic. Mr. Whitelegge has made known the interesting fact that *Stichopus mollis*, Hutton, our commonest form, occurs also in New South Wales (Records Australian Museum, Vol. iii., No. 2, p. 50).

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## EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

*Ophioplocus Huttoni.*

Fig. 1.—Seen from above (× 16).

Fig. 2.—Seen from below (× 16).

Fig. 3.—The tip of an arm from above (× 16).